AZAD) : (a) The year-wise expenditure on litigations was as under :--

Year	Legal expenditure
1990-91	Rs. 05,31,506.72
1991-92	Rs. 12,33,377.40
1992-93	Rs. 08,82,753.85

(b) and (c) While there was increase of Rs. 7,01,871 during 1991-92 over 1990-91, the expenditure during 1992-93 was lower by Rs. 3,50,624 over the year 1991-92. The legal expenditure during the year 1991-92 was higher mainly due to a payment of Rs. 5.26 lakhs in defence of a case relating to a foreign guest who sustained injuries while swimming in the swimming pool of Akbar Hotel in which a compensation claim of Rs. 3 crores has been raised.

(d) Compared to the business turnover, legal expenditure has been normal. However, wherever possible, efforts are made to minimise such expenses.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Improvement is a continuing process. More stress is being given to conciliation proceedings and early settlements.

Russi Mody's remark on the running of Airline

2523. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention ha been drawn to the interview of Shri Russi Mody, part time Chairman AI/IA published in 'India Today; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the Chairman's remark that "Running of the Airline should be exact like I would run a private sector industry ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government wants Air India and Indian Airlines to function efficiently and professioally.

Conditions laid by Chairman of AI/IA

2524. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the interview of Chairman of Air India/Indian Airlines published in "Sunday" Magazine dated November 20—26, 1994 about his accountability to the Ministry/Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has been told about the same by him as one of the conditions before he accepted the offer to become the Chairman of IA/AI; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NAB AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Lowering of equity in

2525. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the interview of Chairman, AI/IA published in "Sunday" magazine of 20th—26th November, 1994;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the Chairman to consider bringing, down Government equity to 49 percent and bring Singapore Airlines or some other airlines to hold 51 percent equity; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Viewk expressed by the Chairman of Air India and Indian Airlines are his personal.